



Saint Paul Early Childhood Scholarship Program

The Saint Paul Early Childhood Scholarship Program is a 4-year pilot proposed by the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, funded by the Minnesota Early Learning Foundation, and coordinated by City of Saint Paul Mayor Chris Coleman's office. The Scholarship Program provides families with information and resources to help them choose, pay for, and stay in high-quality early childhood education (ECE) programs. In turn, ECE programs can use scholarship resources to increase and sustain quality programming.

What services do families receive?

Parent Mentoring

- Families with a pregnant woman or a child under 1 year of age receive free home visits from a parent mentor. Visits continue until the child enters kindergarten.
- Parent mentors make home visits to encourage family health, give information about child development and choosing quality child care and early education, and help families access community resources.

Scholarships

- At age 3, children receive a 2-year scholarship to pay for full- or part-time, center or family-based child care and early education services starting when a child is 3 years old. The scholarship will cover a family's co-payments to attend the ECE program.
- Parent mentors help families choose the best ECE program for their child.

Who can be in the program?

- Families who have a child who will be 3 years old on or before September 1 of the current year. Families with a pregnant woman or a child under 1 year of age may receive parent mentoring.
- Families who live in the Frogtown or North End neighborhoods.
- Families who have an annual income less than 185% of the Federal Poverty Guideline, about \$39,000 for a family of four.

Families apply to the program only one time. Children who get scholarships keep them even if their family's income changes or if their family moves (as long as they stay in Ramsey or Hennepin counties).

Parents may choose a half-day or a full-day ECE program for their child.

How do ECE programs benefit?

1) *Financial benefit* – Scholarship funds go to ECE programs selected by families. Programs will be paid the following amounts on an annual basis:

Hours per Week	Annual Amount*
12 to 14	\$7,280
15 to 17	\$8,320
35 hours center-based	\$13,000
35 hours family-based	\$9,360

*ECE programs are paid on a 4-week reimbursement basis. A 2-week advance is provided the week a child enrolls in an ECE program. Contact RCC for details specific to your program.

2) *Continuity* – Family eligibility is assessed once prior to entry into the program. If the family's income or address changes, they still remain in the program.

ECE programs eligible for scholarships: To access a scholarship, the ECE program must first receive a 3 or 4-star rating by Parent Aware. Provisionally-rated Parent Aware programs are also eligible. Prior to receiving scholarship payments, programs must complete a Program Application and Program Agreement with Resources for Child Caring.

Administration

The City of Saint Paul is responsible for providing overall coordination of the Scholarship Pilot project. Resources for Child Caring is responsible for determining family eligibility and administering payments to ECE programs. Saint Paul-Ramsey County Department of Public Health administers the parent mentoring, including contracting with existing parent mentoring organizations, assessing families, and referring families to these organizations for parent mentoring services.

Who to contact if you have questions about...

General project information
Lisa Cariveau, City of Saint Paul
Office of Mayor Christopher B. Coleman
651-266-8536
lisa.cariveau@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Scholarship payments and family enrollment
Patti Kester
Resources for Child Caring
651-644-6604
pkester@resourcesforchildcare.org

“If properly funded and managed, investments in early childhood development yield an extraordinary return, far exceeding the return on most investments, private or public.”

- Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis